

I am a strong supporter and fan of XM Satellite Radio, and I urge you to reject the National Association of Broadcasters' petition 04-16. Satellite radio offers a wide variety of features that aren't available on broadcast stations, including 24-hour traffic and weather reports. I find it disappointing that the broadcasters have decided to try and stop their competition through legal channels rather than improve their programming in a free and open market environment. Granted, many broadcast stations do offer limited traffic and weather reports, but they are mostly only during rush hour times and aren't as comprehensive as those offered on XM. In addition, if you are in an area with which you aren't familiar, you may not know what broadcast frequency to tune in to get reliable reports; by the time you find one, if you do at all, you might already be sitting in a traffic jam.

In today's climate of increasing traffic congestion, the importance of access to reliable traffic and weather reports is growing. XM's outstanding service allows travelers to find out the traffic and weather conditions in a metropolitan area long before arriving there, rather than having to wait until they are in range of local broadcasts, if any are even available.

Again, I stress my opposition to NAB's petition 04-160. I wish broadcasters would put their energy into improving their service, rather than trying to take away the wonderful programming that XM Radio is providing to consumers.